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He said, she said

Kavanaugh, Ford provide raw, emotional testimony in historic hearing that devolves into vicious partisan fight



Judge Brett Kavanaugh is sworn in to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill on Thursday in Washington.
[ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Christine Blasey Ford is sworn in to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill on Thursday in Washington.
[SAUL LOEB/POOL PHOTO VIA AP]

By Lisa Mascaro and Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an extraordinary and highly emotional day of Senate testimony, California psychology professor Christine Blasey Ford quietly recounted her “100 percent” certainty Thursday that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers. He angrily declared he was “100 percent certain” he did no such thing.

They both said the event and the public controversy that has erupted 36 years later had altered their lives forever and for the worse — perhaps the only thing they agreed on during a long day of testimony that was a study in contrasts of tone as well as substance.

The hearing was a stunning public airing of a partisan fight — charged with explosive gender politics. The future of a high court, and potentially control of Congress, hangs the balance.

Senators were left to decide whether the long day tipped their confirmation votes for

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks during a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee for Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh on Thursday in Washington. [MICHAEL REYNOLDS/POOL IMAGE VIA AP]

Texas senators back nominee

U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz strongly defended Kavanaugh Thursday during the contentious hearing over an alleged sexual assault allegation. **A6**

A country riveted

Americans grapple with an emotional, momentous day that echoed the 1991 hearing for court nominee Clarence Thomas and his accuser, Anita Hill. **A7**

Analysis: Part deposition, part therapy, hearing is strange hybrid

By Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For five minutes at a time, as she was quizzed by a prosecutor about the details of an alleged assault that occurred when she was 15 years old, Christine Blasey Ford was on trial.

And then, for five minutes, she wasn’t.

The Republican decision to relinquish each GOP senator’s five minutes of question time to a career sex-crimes prosecutor turned Thursday’s hearing on Ford’s accusation against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh into a strange hybrid: part legal deposition, part therapy session.

Throughout the morning, Ford swiveled abruptly between Arizona prosecutor Rachel Mitchell, who focused on the minutia of her account,

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Grants falling short of goals

State health contractors spent \$13 million, served fewer women than expected

By Julie Chang
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A grant program intended to boost enrollment in a state health program for low-income women fell far short of its goal to serve 155,000 patients last year even after contractors spent \$13 million, according to data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Among grant recipients given the largest amounts was the Round Rock-based Heidi Group, a newly formed organization whose founder, Carol Everett, is a vocal opponent of abortion rights. The group, which received \$1.6 million in fiscal 2017, served 2,300 women in the Healthy Texas Women program even though its contract called for the organization to serve 51,000, the most of all the grant recipients.

The group also received \$5 million to provide services in the state’s Family Planning Program, but ended up serving 1,000 women, a third of what was proposed.

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WHITTIER REMEMBERED AS UT LEGEND

University of Texas mourns death of first African-American to letter on the Texas football team

VA supervisor, two others charged in fake purchases

By Jeremy Schwartz
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A Department of Veterans Affairs supervisor, his wife and a Killeen business owner were charged Wednesday by federal authorities in connection with a scheme to defraud the Temple

VA Medical Center of about \$250,000, U.S. Attorney John F. Bash announced Wednesday.

The charges stem from an internal investigation into corruption in the engineering department of the Temple VA campus that was first revealed by the American-Statesman

last year.

Christopher Sebek, the operations supervisor in the engineering department, and Jeffrey Pearson, the owner of Whitetail Industrial, were both charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the government and one count of

theft of government property.

Melissa Sebek, who owns MS Bookkeeping Services, was charged with one count of theft of government property.

Investigators allege that for five years, beginning in February 2012, Christopher Sebek and Pearsall submitted

fraudulent invoices to the VA for goods and services supposedly for VA use, but which were actually used to pay for Sebek’s personal purchases and to cover Pearson’s 30 percent commission on each invoice.

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